

U. S. Department of Agriculture
War Food Administration

DETERMINATION OF PREVAILING FARM WAGE RATES
FOR THE PURPOSES OF PUBLIC LAW 45, 78TH CONGRESS

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
APR 8 - 1943

1. In the administration of Public Law 45, 78th Congress, approved April 29, 1943, it is necessary to establish prevailing wage rates for particular crops and areas as an incident to the recruitment of foreign and interstate labor.

2. A County Farm Wage Board (hereinafter called the "Board") is hereby authorized to be created in each county to act on behalf of the War Food Administrator and the State extension service in the conduct of investigations and hearings for the purpose of making findings of fact and recommendations as to the prevailing wage rates paid agricultural labor with respect to particular crops and areas within each such county.

3. The Board shall be composed of the County Agent and four members of the County Farm Labor Advisory Committee appointed by the chairman of that Committee.

4. The County Agent shall act as chairman of the Board and shall preside at hearings conducted in accordance with the procedure hereinafter set forth. Three members will constitute a quorum.

5. Promptly upon the receipt of notice of this instruction the County Agent, the chairman of each County Farm Labor Advisory Committee should appoint the members of the Board as provided in § 3 and the County Agent should notify the State director of extension and the undersigned of the completion of the Board, giving the names of its members.

6. Upon receipt of a request for findings and recommendations as to a prevailing wage rate, the County Agent shall immediately arrange for a time and place within the designated employment area for the holding of a public hearing. Public notice of the proposed hearing shall be given not less than two days in advance of the hearing by posting notices at not less than five appropriate places within the designated employment area. The hearing before the Board should be informal and farm operators, agricultural workers, and other interested persons should be permitted to present testimony. The Board shall make a record of the testimony presented at the hearing, by a verbatim transcript or by a memorandum summarizing the testimony.

7. The hearing should continue no longer than one day on the basis of the evidence developed at the hearing, and such further investigation as the Board may deem appropriate, the Board shall make findings and recommendations as to the prevailing wage rate. Such findings and recommendations and a copy of the record of testimony at the hearing shall be transmitted by the County Agent not later than two days after the conclusion of the hearing to the State Director of Extension, who shall determine the prevailing wage rate and promptly communicate it to the undersigned.

8. Where a prevailing wage rate is to be determined for an area covering two or more counties, the State Director of Extension shall make his determination after consideration of the findings and recommendations of the Board of each county in the area.

9. If a State extension service decides that the determination of a prevailing wage rate is necessary as an incident to the recruitment of intrastate labor, the procedure provided in this instruction may be used to make such determination.

M. L. Wilson

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Director of Extension Work

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